Economic problems of rural areas

*139. PROF. M.M. AGARWAL: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that two-third population of the country living in villages, is still facing problems of water, electricity, employment, starvation, poverty and health;

(b) if so, the steps taken by Government in this regard in the recent years; and

(c) the details of new schemes formulated by Government for solving the said problems of rural population of the country?

THE MINISTER OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI KASHIRAM RANA): (a) to (c) The Ministry of Rural Development is presently implementing the following major schemes for poverty alleviation, employment generation, area development and infrastructure development in the rural areas of the country:

- Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY)
- Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY)
- Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY)
- Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY)
- Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP)
- Watershed Development Programmes (IWDP, DPAP and DDP) and
- Central Rural Sanitation Programme (CRSP)

The SGSY and the SGRY are the major employment generating schemes for the rural poor. The Indira Awaas Yojana (IAY) and the Watershed Development Programmes (IWDP, DPAP and DDP) also create employment indirectly in the rural areas.

2. The Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) is the major on-going programme for the self-employment of rural poor. The objective of the SGSY is to bring the assisted Swarozgaris above the poverty line by providing them income-generating assets through bank credit and Government subsidy. Under the SGRY, additional wage employment

opportunities are being created besides creation of durable community, social and economic assets for sustained employment and development. Provision of food security is another objective of the scheme. These schemes are to be implemented by the Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) as **a** measure of empowering them. The Pradhan Mantri Gram Sadak Yojana (PMGSY) seeks to provide connectivity to all unconnected habitations in the rural areas with a population of more than 500 persons with good all-weather roads by the end of the Tenth Five-Year Plan. The Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP) is being implemented to provide safe drinking water in rural areas. With a view to widening the coverage of rural sanitation, a Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) is now being implemented in Project Mode in the identified districts. The Integrated Wastelands Development Programme (IWDP) is implemented to improve the productivity of the Wastelands and living standard of the rural poor.

3. The Ministry constantly reviews its programmes for policy interventions for improvement of the schemes. Erstwhile Integrated Rural Development Programme (IRDP) and allied programmes, namely, Training of Rural Youth for Self Employment (TRYSEM), Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA), Supply of Improved Toolkits to Rural Artisans (SITRA), Ganga Kalyan Yojana (GKY) and Million Wells Scheme (MWS) were restructured into a single self-employment programme namely, Swarnjayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) from 1st April, 1999. A new wage employment programme, namely, the Sampoorna Grameen Rozgar Yojana (SGRY) was introduced w.e.f. 25-09-2001 after merging the erstwhile Employment Assurance Scheme (EAS) and the Jawahar Gram Samridhi Yojana (JGSY).The scheme of Swajaldhara has been introduced for institutionalizing community participation in Rural Water Supply Programme. Recently, a new initiative called "Hariyali" has been launched wherein all watershed programmes are to be implemented through Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs).

Shortage of potable water in Rajasthan, M.P. and Orissa

*140. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that there is acute shortage of potable water in the drought affected areas like Rajasthan, Madhya Pradesh and Orissa;